

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Water Pollution Control Division
Notice of Public Comment Period for the
2021 Assessment of Maria Creek Watershed Water Quality Data
for the Development of a Total Maximum Daily Load Report
Under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and Pursuant to [IC 13-18-2-3](#)
Document #21-37

PURPOSE OF NOTICE

Pursuant to [IC 13-18-2-3](#), the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is soliciting public comment on the assessment of water quality data for the development of a total maximum daily load (TMDL) report. These data were collected by IDEM staff from November of 2019 through October of 2020, following the IDEM quality assured work plan and IDEM standard operating procedures. They were assessed using IDEM's Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology (CALM).

Background

Past surveys of the Maria Creek watershed were conducted in 1993, 1999, 2004, and 2009 which included monitoring for fish communities, macroinvertebrate communities, and water chemistry. Based on these past surveys, impairments currently listed on the 303(d) List of Impaired Waters include *E. coli*, dissolved oxygen (DO), and impaired biotic communities (IBC).

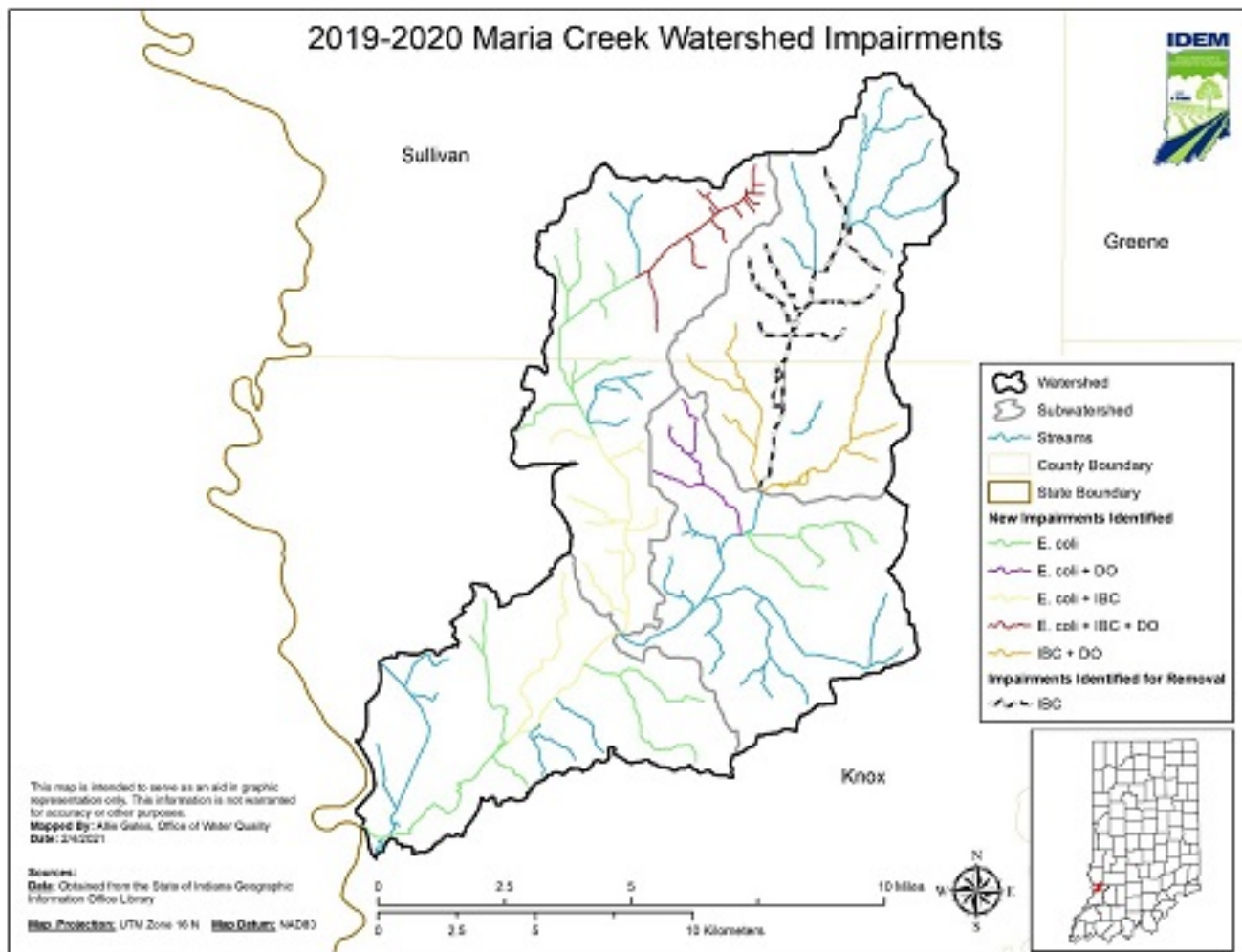
In 2019, the Maria Creek watershed was selected for an intensive watershed characterization monitoring project to identify the sources and extent of impairments based on those waters that were previously listed. Eighteen sites were assessed for general chemistry, pathogens, nutrients, habitat, and fish and macroinvertebrate communities.

Findings

Based on the watershed characterization study assessments in 2021, there are 14 stream segments, tracked using assessment unit IDs (AUIDs), where additional impairments are identified. The additional impairments across all stream segments sampled within the Maria Creek watershed total 23, including 12 *E. coli*, 7 IBC, and 4 DO.

Also, as a result of the assessments, one historical IBC impairment is identified as no longer applicable. The segment now demonstrates attainment of applicable water quality standards.

Maria Creek Watershed Impairments		
Current AUID	Additional Impairments Identified in 2019-2020 Data Assessment	Impairments Identified for Removal in 2019-2020 Data Assessment Due to Meeting WQS
INB11I4_03	<i>E. coli</i>	
INB11I4_T1005	<i>E. coli</i>	
INB11I4_T1004	<i>E. coli</i> , IBC	
INB11I4_02	<i>E. coli</i> , IBC	
INB11I4_T1001	<i>E. coli</i>	
INB11I2_T1001	<i>E. coli</i>	
INB11I2_T1002	<i>E. coli</i> , DO	
INB11I3_05	<i>E. coli</i> , IBC	
INB11I3_04	<i>E. coli</i> , IBC	
INB11I3_03	<i>E. coli</i>	
INB11I3_T1002	<i>E. coli</i>	
INB11I3_02	<i>E. coli</i> , IBC, DO	
INB11I1_T1004	IBC, DO	
INB11I1_01		IBC
INB11I1_T1005	IBC, DO	



REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time, IDEM solicits water quality-related information to support or refute the assessments described above.

Comments may be submitted in one of the following ways:

(1) By mail or common carrier to the following address:

Document #21-37 2021 Assessment of Maria Creek Water Quality Data
 Allie Gates, Watershed Assessment and Planning Branch
 Indiana Department of Environmental Management
 2525 North Shadeland Avenue, Suite 100
 Indianapolis, IN 46219

(2) By electronic mail to agates1@idem.in.gov. To confirm timely delivery of your comments, please request a document receipt when you send the electronic mail. PLEASE NOTE: Electronic mail comments will NOT be considered part of the official written comment period unless they are sent to the address indicated in this notice.

(3) Hand delivered to the receptionist on duty at the reception desk, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, 2525 North Shadeland Avenue, Suite 100, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Regardless of the delivery method used, to properly identify each comment with the action it is intended to address, each comment document must clearly specify the LSA document number of the action on which you are commenting.

COMMENT PERIOD DEADLINE

All comments must be postmarked or time stamped not later than May 25, 2021. Hand-delivered comments must be delivered to the appropriate office by 4:45 p.m. on the above-listed deadline date.

Additional information regarding this notice may be obtained from Allie Gates in the Watershed Assessment and Planning Branch, Office of Water Quality, (317) 308-3178 or (800) 451-6027 (in Indiana).

DISPOSITION

After the public comment period, the determination of impairments for TMDL development will be presented to the commissioner for final approval.

Posted: 02/24/2021 by Legislative Services Agency

An [html](#) version of this document.